



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 30, 2002

H.R. 1877 **Child Sex Crimes Wiretapping Act of 2001**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 24, 2002

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1877 would not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Enacting H.R. 1877 could affect direct spending and receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. H.R. 1877 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1877 would add certain sexual crimes against children to the list of offenses for which wiretaps and other interceptions of communications can be authorized. Implementing the bill could result in more successful investigations and prosecutions in cases involving such crimes. CBO expects that any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1877 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.